An edition of the Duartean, The Monrovia News Post, the Arcadia Tribune and The Star-Temple City editions

THE WEEKLY STAR

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PHOTOS BY LAFAYETTE C. HIGHT JR.

The Women's Club of Arcadia turns 100 this month. The Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage will host an exhibit throughout the month of May, beginning with an 11 a.m. reception May 3, based upon rediscovered scrapbooks from the first 90 years of the club's history.

Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage

MUSEUM EXHIBITS DOCUMENTS MISSING FOR 20 YEARS

Rediscovered scrapbooks tell the history of Arcadia and celebrate 100th anniversary of its Woman's Club

By Lafayette C. Hight Jr.
Correspondent

Nearly 90 years of scrapbooks, club minutes, photographs and other documentation from their history, gives insight into the inner workings of the Women's Club of Arcadia and the group's active role in the community since 1914.

The materials, about 30 to 40 volumes worth, are assembled into an exhibit that begins May 3 at the Gilb Museum of Arcadia Heritage and will continue throughout the month.

Museum volunteer Jack McCrea, 74, has studied the Woman's Club for about four years as his hobby and was working to assemble the materials at press time.

"They were a pretty classy group," McCrea said. "At every meeting they would have food, guest speakers, music. Really, really an active group."

Founded in May 1914, they were initially called The Cooperative Arcadians.

"They were cooperating with the city fathers in making Arcadia a nice place to live," McCrea said. "The name was gone by 1920. Then they became the Woman's Club of Arcadia."

The historical documents disappeared about 20 years ago and were recently rediscovered at the group's First Avenue clubhouse, according to Floretta Lauber, chair of the centennial committee.

"I was devastated at the time," Lauber said. "(When they were found) we made a decision to donate them to the museum so they could be forever protected."

At first their founding members met in their homes; later the city council allowed them to meet in a government facility. Starting in the 1920s they began saving for a building of their own, using profits from vegetable sales, carnivals and planting gardens.

"They worked through two world wars and a depression," Lauber said. "There was no place in town to meet. It was pretty rural. They had a pretty rough time."

The land on the corner of First Avenue and Diamond Street was purchased from Anita Baldwin in 1930 for $1,800. The structure was completed the next year. It is what Lauber describes as "early California hacienda" style.

Members of the club worked to found the Arcadia Public Library, the historical society, built the amphitheater and Braille Trail in Arcadia Park and worked to get the first traffic signal installed at the corner of First Avenue and Huntington Drive, she added.

Lauber has been a member of the club for 53 years, has served as president on three occasions and was the first elected woman mayor of Arcadia in 1976. She joined the Woman's Club after seeing the work the group did and was later interviewed as a candidate for membership.

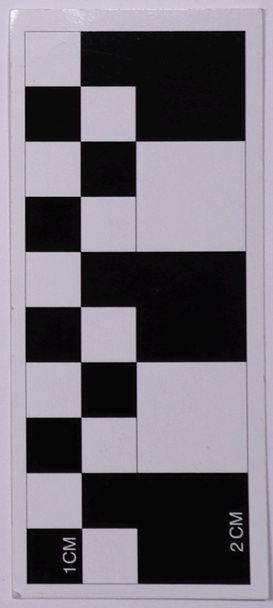
"I realized that the Woman's Club was doing everything," she said. "They seemed to be so involved. In those days it wasn't just 'Come on in and pay your money.' They told me they wanted to call on me. I served tea."

Cheryl Alberg, current president, and member for four years said that she joined the organization after looking for a way to get involved, post-retirement.

"A friend invited me there for lunch and the next thing I knew I joined," she said.

Currently the club has 60 members.

"We're going to try to become more involved in the community and partner with some charities for fundraisers and things like that," she said. "I enjoyed the history of what they had done. What they had done for years. I want to get involved and see if we can do that again."



Calendar

Arcadia

Charity pancake breakfast: Coldwell Banker Arcadia Regional Office will hold its 14th annual Pancake Breakfast 8:30 to 11 a.m. May 3 at 15 E. Foothill Blvd., Arcadia.

Proceeds from the "Fostering Love" charity pancake breakfast will benefit United Hope for Animals and Friends of Foster Children.

Activities will include a bake sale, children's games, live music, a balloon artist, arts and crafts, face painting, raffles, a silent auction, a visit from the Arcadia Police Department SWAT armored vehicle and some dogs and cats that will be available for adoption.

Cost is $5 for adults and $3 for children 12 and younger.

For more information, call 626-445-5500.

Duarte

Literacy and Learning with Mayor Liz Reilly: Duarte Mayor Liz Reilly visits the library for a family-oriented program from 4-5 p.m. May 6.

The mayor will read to the children for the first 15 minutes of the hour-long program. This will be followed by an art activity project. The last half hour will be devoted to taking questions from the parents in attendance.

Duarte Library is at 1301 Buena Vista St., Duarte.

For more information, call 626-358-1865.

Arcadia

SpringTopia: Celebrate the world of plants at the Los Angeles County Arboretum with two days of spring festivities May 3-4.

It will be a weekend of fun and learning with special featured speakers, guided garden tours, a walk through Wildflowering L.A., music, children's activities, food and much more.

The Arboretum is at 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

For more information, call 626-821-3250.

Duarte

After School Library Club: Elementary school aged children are invited to the library from 4-5 p.m. every Tuesday for age-appropriate stories, book discussions and art activities. The club will meet May 6. Basic library instruction will also be given, time permitting. Refreshments will be served at this program. Ingredients are available upon request.

Duarte Library is at 1301 Buena Vista St., Duarte.

For more information, call 626-358-1865.

Temple City

Bilingual storytime: Families can enjoy a variety of stories, poems, songs, fingerplays and more presented in Mandarin Chinese and English at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Upcoming storytimes is May 6.

This is a chance for children to practice their Chinese language skills in a fun and safe environment. Patrons of all language levels are welcome to attend.

The Temple City Library is at 5939 Golden West Ave., Temple City.

CALENDAR » PAGE 4

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Around Arcadia+Temple City

WANDERING FOOT QUILT GUILD HOLDS YARD SALE FOR YARDAGE



Lauragene Swenson
Columnist

It's the time of year for yard sales and this one is unique as most items are sold by the yard. The Wandering Foot Quilt Guild (WFQG) is holding theirs on May 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Arcadia Presbyterian Church.

Most all quilters have a huge stash of fabric and can't possibly use it all. WFQG is offering a chance for quilters to share their past "over purchases" and donate to the yard sale, so another quilter can add a little more to their stash. It is a quilter's bag of candy at $1 per yard. There are large and small pieces of fabric, magazines, books and patterns — all things related to quilting.

Wandering Foot Quilt Guild is a nonprofit organization. The purpose is to promote cooperation and exchange of ideas among those interested in quilting; to encourage and maintain high standards of de-

SWENSON » PAGE 9



PHOTO BY LAURAGENE SWENSON

Getting ready for the yard sale and checking out the mounds of fabric are Wandering Foot Quilt Guild members: Kathy Crusberg, Ann Hoon, event Chairwoman Chris Vail and Martha Burmeister.

Around Duarte+Monrovia

WATSONS NAMED MONROVIA'S OLDER AMERICANS OF THE YEAR



Charlotte Schamadan
Columnist

It seems that each day in this country is named for some person or some event.

City leaders across the land are busy handing out proclamations for honoring something or another all the time. For example, I learned as I was writing this column that I was working on National Zucchini Day. Who knew? To whomever got this one on the books, Thanks for the dinner inspiration.

As we are just over the monthly boundary into May, you need to know that this is Older Americans Month and National Historic Preservation Month. Kind of goes together, don't you think? I mean, many older Americans are historic and, goodness knows, well-preserved.

It's ancient history, but there was once a day named after me in Monrovia. Back in the mid-1990s when I was installed as president of Quota International in Auckland, New Zealand, then-Mayor Bob Bartlett proclaimed the day "Charlotte Schamadan Day" at one of the City Council meetings.

In comically poor planning, I was in New Zealand at time and no one bothered to tell me that there had been a "day" named for me until six weeks after my return. That's when I learned the meaning of anticlimactic.

Back in today's world, hearty congratulations go out to the local Monrovia-Duarte Quota Club who celebrated 60 years of service to our communities. That's as fine a group of local volunteers as you'll ever meet.

No ignoring those honors now, though. Well-known volunteers John and Katie Watson have been named Older Americans of the Year. They will be feted this month at a luncheon with other honorees in Los Angeles County. Monrovia has been fortunate to have a deserving honoree for many of the past years. We are grateful for everything John and Katie do for this community.

One of the Watsons' prime volunteer activities is working with the Monrovia Historic Preservation Group. You'll see John and Katie at the 32nd annual Mother's Day Home Tour on May 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This year, five private vintage homes will showcase the rich heritage of the community. The Aztec Hotel and the Monrovia Historical Museum will also be open for tour-goers. A free trolley will be available for transportation between houses, if you prefer not to drive your car and seek parking.

SCHAMADAN » PAGE 8

